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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0973  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 4517  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6896  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1640  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2960  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4159  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - IRAQ - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: There were no papers published Monday morning because of a press holiday. Top stories on TV this morning include the victory in Sunday's French presidential runoff of former Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy.

¶1. "Course for Stabilization Remains Unclear" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (5/6): "In Iraq, where a large number of citizens are dying every day due to violence and terrorism, millions of people have become refugees in their own country.... An international conference on Iraq was held in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el Sheik, during which participants adopted a joint statement approving debt relief for Iraq and the UN-led International Compact for Iraq (ICI) and advocated international cooperation in preventing armed militants from entering the nation. Although the establishment of a working group to support displaced persons and border control is a positive development, the creation of the framework alone is not enough.... It is critical that the US and Iran set aside the issue of Tehran's nuclear development and discuss the stabilization of Iraq.... Needless to say, Prime Minister Maliki bears a heavy responsibility. He needs to seek a national reconciliation and try to dispel distrust among Sunnis. Otherwise, the international community's support plan will soon stall."

¶2. "Continued Dialogue Important for Progress" The conservative Sankei wrote (5/6): "Although the confusion in Iraq is not a simple matter that can be solved through a few international conferences, we hope that concrete measures toward improving the situation will be gradually taken by setting a framework for international dialogue. Although the possibility of the US holding foreign ministerials with Iran and Syria received much attention,

the failure to set a US-Iran meeting illustrated the years of deep mutual distrust between Washington and Tehran. However, the ambassadorial talks between the two nations made some progress."

DONOVAN